

Special Contribution

High performance sport center services during the early days of COVID-19 focusing on urgent efforts at the Japan Institute of Sports Sciences

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ABSTRACT

Because of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Japanese government officially announced a State of Emergency while the world was in the midst of confusion and uncertainty. Therefore, the Japan Sport Council (JSC) decided to close its High Performance Sport Center (HPSC), the centralized training base for elite Olympic and Paralympic athletes. The Japan Institute of Sports Sciences (JISS), a department of the HPSC, is responsible for providing support services to athletes in the field of sport science, medicine, and information. This article introduces the support activities implemented during the State of Emergency, focusing on information delivery from the newly established Conditioning Division of the JISS and the Intelligence Group within the Operational Excellence Unit of the HPSC. In terms of information delivery, the strength of the HPSC relies on the availability of full-time experts in sport science and medicine. In addition, there is a team focusing on information gathering from different countries, enabling experts to engage in holistic discussions in a wider scope. Moreover, the HPSC has developed guidelines for returning to sport activities and training in the context of COVID-19.

Keywords: COVID-19, High Performance Sport Center (HPSC), Division of Conditioning, Intelligence Group of Operational Excellence Unit